

Horndean Biodiversity Group



Minutes of AGM on 12th April 2016 at Napier Hall, Portsmouth Road, Horndean

Attendees: Mike Ashton, Stuart Ball, Peter & Margaret Bone, Rosemary and Philip Clarke, Deryn Hawkins, Mark Inglesias, Peter and Sylvia Leversha, Roger Marriott, RK&SE Parkhurst, Bill Roberts, Ros Robinson, Elaine and James Tickell, Sophie Trice, John Vigay, Jordan Walker

Apologies: Andrew Forbes, Nik Knight, John Nundy

Copy: Carla Baverstock-Jones, Edwige Collins, Kim O'Brien,

Chairman's Welcome and Report:

John Vigay gave a brief presentation on the Horndean Biodiversity Group and how we were formed. He also explained the work we have done so far, including publication of the Horndean Biodiversity Action Plan. He then outlined the projects we have completed and those we are planning for the future. John also mentioned that he has a large amount of old records which should not be lost and at present we are considering the old Horndean Library which may become available to store such documents. John also emphasized the importance of record keeping with regard to species surveys as Horndean is very under-recorded at present. He showed a map of the different types of environment we have in the Horndean and surrounding areas including peoples' hedgerows and gardens.

LivingRecord.net is the tool that we use. There are quite extensive Help screens on this application to assist with navigation around the site or alternatively Adrian Bicker is available to help at adrianb@livingrecord.net. The LivingRecord.net application can be found at <http://www.livingrecord.net>

John Vigay and Peter Leversha have resigned from their respective roles as Chairman and Treasurer. Andy Forbes will take over from Peter as Treasurer if there are objections from the floor. A list of remaining Committee members was presented and proposed and there were no objections from the attendees to any of the present and future incumbents. If anyone would like to take over the position of Chairman or join the Committee in an advisory capacity please contact us on horndeanbiodiversitygroup@gmail.com

The Constitution was also available for attendees to read.

Treasurer's Report:

Peter Leversha went through the account for last year. The balance of funds currently stands at £329.49 and were approved by the attendees.

Peter went on to thank the various Councils from whom we have received grants. Guy Shepherd, East Hants District Councillor, had offered funding for the Group to buy equipment and we have purchased a Camera Trap, a portable hand held digital microscope

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and 15 Aspen trees for Hazleton Common. In the future we hope to purchase a small portable generator to help with moth trapping nights.

Projects

John presented the list of current projects that the group are working on. The projects can be split into two distinct groups. Physical projects ie tree planting, fencing etc and non-physical projects such as survey inputs, plant monitoring etc.

Mike Ashton explained why projects for wildlife corridors need cooperation with local authorities. Also the survey projects are important in that the results can be used to influence the way ahead for our community. A list was circulated identifying the Ecological Surveys on development sites published since Horndean Biodiversity Action Plan was released.

Roger Marriott – Butterfly Surveys

Since Roger has been carrying out butterfly survey he has recorded 8824 sightings on Living.Record.net out of the 60 known UK species.

He mentioned four of the rarer species:

Large Tortoiseshell – this was thought to be extinct in the UK but has been seen around Pyle Lane, Horndean and in Cowplain.

Green Hairstreak – this was last seen at Hazelton Common in 2013.

Chalkhill Blue – this was last seen on Windmill Hill.

Purple Emperor – Seen infrequently at The Holt and Havant Thicket in the Oak tree tops.

Roger is also involved in a project to re-introduce the Marsh Fritillary to a site in Fleet, on MOD land. He will receive larva and bring them on to the butterfly site ready for release. This is a very exciting project and if anyone would like to be involved please contact us at horndeanbiodiversitygroup@gmail.com and we will pass your details onto Roger.

Jordan Walker – Horndean Parish Council Grounds Team

Jordan gave a brief presentation on the work of the Grounds Team (formerly Countryside team) within the Parish in the four main reserves that are within the Parish Boundary and the many public open spaces and public parks. Some of their recent work involves:

- Clearing invasive species from open spaces
- Grazing programmes ie new calves at Catherington Down
- Coppicing at Hazelton Common, part of the Woodland Management Plan
- Fencing and boardwalks at Hazelton Common
- Surveys of the nine ponds within the Parish with the help of volunteers
- Bug hotels at Catherington Lith
- Dormouse surveys at Catherington Down with volunteers and licensed operators
- New pond dipping platform at Catherington Pond

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Jordan also mentioned the 2015 BioBlitz at Dell Piece West last June where 472 species were recorded made up of 129 plants and 343 animal species with 5 new plant and 30 new animal species found. They are hoping to hold another BioBlitz this year and try to combine with National Moth Night on 9/10 July. Watch the Parish Notice Boards and our web site for the final date.

Peter thanked John Vigay for all his hard work in reinvigorating the Horndean Biodiversity Group and steering the Biodiversity Action Plan into publication. The Committee are grateful that he is remaining on the Committee to continue to impart his invaluable knowledge. The meeting closed at 21.20.

The next meeting will be a General Committee meeting on Tuesday 14th June at 2pm in Napier Hall, all volunteers welcome